FREE – TAKE ONE

The Romulus News

OCTOBER 17, 2003 – OCTOBER 30, 2003 "the little paper" VOLUME 17 NUMBER 7

Timely Tidbits ...

Annual City Auction Set for October 25

The annual City of Romulus auction will be held at 10 a.m. on Saturday, October 25, at the new DPW yard (12600 Wayne Road, between Old Wayne and Northline roads). Items for sale include cars and trucks, mowers and tractors, computers and related hardware, and bicycles.

All items must be paid for and removed *the day of the auction.* For more information, call Kathy Hood (734-955-8741).

Blood Drive Benefits Policeman's Son

The City of Romulus will host a blood drive for Marc Grant – the four-year-old son of Romulus Police Officer Michael Grant and his wife Jeannine – from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday, October 24, at City Hall (11111 South Wayne Road, at Goddard).

Marc, who suffers from a number of health problems due to a rare genetic disorder, will undergo open-heart surgery to replace his aorta on October 28.

Craft & Vendor Show

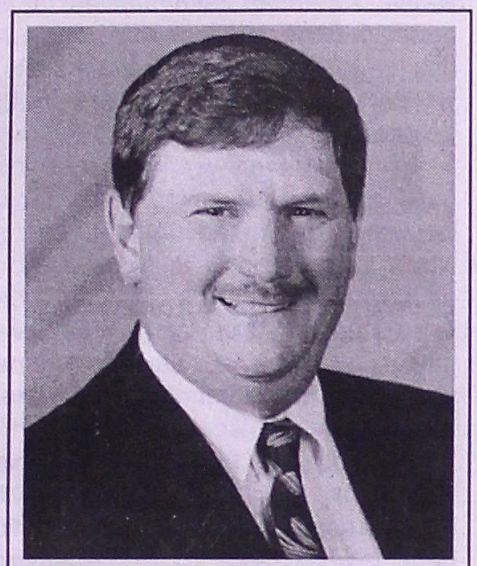
Barth Elementary School is looking for crafters and vendors to participate in its first annual Fall Craft and Vendor Show, to be held at the school (38207 Barth Road) on Saturday, November 15, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

For more information, or to obtain a registration packet, call the school (734-532-1250) and ask for parent coordinators Barb Snyder or Cecilia Burcroff.

Baby-sitting Class

The Romulus Public Library is hosting a baby-sitting workshop for students in grades six and up. Classes will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. each Thursday from October 23 through December 18 at the Library (11121 South Wayne Road, next to City Hall). A registration fee of $5 covers materials used in the class. For more information, please call 734-942-7589. ❑

Vote on Casinos, Racetracks Set for December 2



Councilman Bill Crova

By Kristi Stephens

Following a study session to consider possible ballot language, the Romulus City Council voted 7–0 in favor of allowing residents to decide whether or not casinos and/or horse racetracks should be allowed to operate within the city limits.

The idea for a referendum, first suggested at the council level by member Debbie Romak, was reinforced by the submission of more than 400 petition signatures for each of the two issues.

During the study session on ballot language, Council members considered a number of samples provided by City attorney Barry Seifman before settling on a final choice that was deemed to be clear and straight-to-the-point.

"I want 'yes' to mean 'yes' and 'no' to mean 'no,'" said Councilman Bill Crova. "I want it to be pretty easy for the people to understand exactly what they're voting on."

In the end, Council opted for the following language, which will appear on the ballot for a special election to be held on Tuesday, December 2:

Proposal 1

Shall the City of Romulus allow casino gaming within the corporate limits of the City of Romulus, in accordance with the Michigan Gaming Control and Revenue Act 1997, Public Act 69, and/or the federal Indian Gaming Regulatory Act? (YES or NO)

Proposal 2

Shall the City of Romulus allow horse racing, the attendant pari-mutuel wagering, and other gaming within the corporate limits of the City of Romulus, in accordance with the Horse Racing Law of 1995, 1995 Public Act 279? (YES or NO)

Councilman Bill Wadsworth sought to allay the fears of voters who believe that the election is an empty gesture.

"I've had a few folks out there tell me, 'Well, even if it gets turned down, there's a way of [bringing gambling to Romulus]," he stated. "Well, I believe that myself and the rest of us up here don't feel that way. If it gets turned down, it's turned down, and it's a dead issue. If it gets passed, it's passed, and we move forward with it."

Residents who are not yet registered voters, but would like to take part in the election, must register no later than Monday, November 3.

Sault Chippewa Address Council

Residents who would like to learn more about the Sault Ste. Marie Chippewa Tribe's casino proposal, but missed the Council meeting of October 13, may want to contact the City's cable department (734-955-4555) and ask for it to be rebroadcast. Tribal representatives appeared before the Council to explain their interest in acquiring Romulus land for casino and other development, then answered questions from both Council members and the audience.

Highlights of the Sault Tribe's presentation included projections of:

- $6 million in annual revenue for the city, and
- 3,500 new jobs with an average pay of $40,000 ($32,000 in wages plus $8,000 in benefits).

Tribal spokespersons also used the opportunity to debunk a number of "public misconceptions," asserting that they *will* be required to pay state sales tax, and that they *will not* permit underage (below 21) gaming or drinking.

Audience members' comments to the Tribe's spokespersons represented both sides of local opinion.

Those in favor of allowing gaming in Romulus believe that it will bring significant revenue to the City's depleted coffers, spur further development, benefit existing local businesses through increased traffic, and provide nearby residents with vastly improved recreation opportunities.

Those who oppose it say that it will be an immoral influence on the community's residents, cause financial ruin to those with a gambling addiction, bring increased crime, draw customers away from existing businesses, and fail to draw quality developers to the area. ❑

Metro World PDA Receives Final Approval

Metro World Centre – a billion-dollar mixed-use development plan – received the Romulus City Council's unanimous support on October 6.

"We are very pleased with Romulus City Council's approval of our Planned Development Agreement (PDA) and preliminary site plan," said Llwyd Ecclestone, owner and president of Metro World Centre. "This unanimous support demonstrates the forward-thinking focus of the City Council, Planning Commission, and City administration, and their shared vision will be codified as projects are built rivaling world-class mixed-use developments around the country.

"Already," he continued, "since the Romulus Planning Commission gave Metro World Centre its unanimous approval on August 5, we have received several inquiries from users interested in building projects in Romulus."

Romulus Mayor Alan R. Lambert said, "Metro World Centre is one of the focal points of major development for the City of Romulus, and we are expecting to see important results in the days ahead. City Council, the Romulus Planning Department, and the Romulus Planning Commission have worked many long hours over the past year with the highly professional people of Metro World Centre to create a new structure for planned development in our community.

"We are proud that Romulus will lead the way in southeast Michigan," he added, "and that our city will grow and prosper with a model development."

Council Chairman Randy Gear also expressed his pleasure with the vote.

"As a council, we are united in our desire to bring important benefits to the people of Romulus that will result from planned, controlled growth," said Gear. "I believe we have achieved a means to that end with the Metro World Centre PDA."

continued on page 15

Letters to the Editor

Editor's note: All letters to the editor MUST contain the writer's signature and a telephone number where he/she can be reached in order to verify the letter's authenticity.

Names will be withheld by request only in exceptional cases where, in our opinion, there is a legitimate reason to do so. (Writers need not be afraid to include their name when asking for anonymity, since all such names are kept in the strictest confidence, regardless of whether or not the letter is published.)

The Romulus News reserves the right to edit all letters for clarity and, if necessary, brevity.

Opinions expressed in the "Letters to the Editor" column are not necessarily shared by the staff of "the little paper."

For more information, please call 734-941-1907.

Romulus Looking Good

To the Editor:

This is in reply to "Romulus Citizen Urges Fellow Residents, 'Keep Your Eyes on Our City'" – a letter to the editor written by Jan Lemmon and published in *The Romulus News* on October 3, 2003.

Let me just say, "Keep your eyes on our city! Romulus is finally looking good!" Things are starting to happen here because of Mayor Alan Lambert and other elected officials!

As for what Ms. Lemmon said regarding certain council members – she needs to get to know these people better. They are community-conscious individuals. Her remarks about Councilmen Bill Wadsworth, Mike Prybyla, and Randy Gear are uncalled for. These people are great community leaders.

Mayor Lambert and the city council members *all* support a vote of the people on a casino and racetrack in Romulus. They have made statement after statement at every council study session and council meeting held regarding this subject. There is no power struggle. We have sound leadership in Mayor Lambert and a majority of the council.

I am convinced that a year-round, indoor casino will benefit the community. The proposed Metro World complex, with its convention center and new businesses, will also be good for Romulus.

Romulus, don't be afraid. If we display negativity toward our community, it will spread. I look forward to the day when people in other towns say, "Wow! Look at Romulus now." We need the Metro World development. We need the casino, too (if we can get it here before another community beats us to it). Our young people need jobs here so that they can live and work here in Romulus.

I am glad that our city officials are calling for a vote on December 2. As for me, I will be voting YES! So let's keep our eyes on our city! Good things are finally starting to happen -- and haven't we waited long enough?

Ted Hall
Romulus resident/business owner

Too Late for Neutrality

Dear Romulus residents:

It's a little late for the administration of the City of Romulus to stay neutral. When Mayor Alan Lambert had his first meeting with Magna Corporation and the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, he opened the door to our city. What part of government doesn't he understand?

This is why I feel it is so important to share with the community a letter that I recently received from U.S. Senator Carl Levin *[reprinted below]*. All our city officials see is the money. To me, that is just promises. I have to put my faith in the professional politicians in Washington, who have more knowledge and experience in these issues than we do.

Before you make a decision on this very important issue, do some research for yourself. Talk to our representatives in Lansing. State Senator Raymond Basham is very helpful and will answer any questions for you. Find out how the Indian Reservations operate.

Respectfully,
Jan Lemmon
Romulus

[Editor's note: The following letter from U.S. Senator Carl Levin (D–Michigan) is dated September 11, 2003]

"Dear Mrs. Lemmon:

"Thank you for contacting me about Native American tribes building and operating casinos in Michigan. I appreciate hearing your views on this subject.

"The Indian Gaming Regulatory Act of 1988 (IGRA) ordered state governments to sign compacts, or agreements, with individual tribes in their states that wish to build and operate casinos. The compacts establish the number, size and gaming format of the casinos. IGRA also established a regulatory structure for enforcing gaming laws. As a result, the federal government shares the responsibility of regulating these casinos with the tribes and the state.

"Gambling has been a contentious issue because of concerns raised by affected local residents. For example, many constituents have voiced their concern over increasing crime rates in communities where casinos have opened. However, many tribes view the enterprise as a significant business opportunity. IGRA requires that the profits from casinos support the essential social services that are lacking in many Native American communities. It is hoped that the operation of these casinos, under the terms of the compacts, will give the tribes the opportunity to achieve self-sufficiency.

"I believe that decisions regarding gaming should be made at the local level, through city or county resolutions where the voices of those who would be directly affected by the final decision can be heard. At the same time, lawmakers at both the state and federal level must not overlook the fact that Michigan has the second largest number of casinos in the U.S. Should this rate persist, the market in Michigan will become so saturated that the economic benefits which result from tribal gaming initiatives will be lost.

"I will keep your views in mind should this issue come before the full Senate. Best wishes.

"Sincerely,
"Carl Levin"

Do Nothing, Get Nothing

Dear Editor:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed racetrack and/or casino gambling that is planned for the I-94/Vining Road Interchange.

As a Romulus resident and business owner for the past 20 years, I have found that the one disadvantage to living in this city has been a lack of development in housing, shopping, and entertainment. As residents, we must leave our city for both entertainment and shopping – and, until recently, we had to move to other nearby cities to find upscale housing.

We now have a mayor, Al Lambert, who has made development his number-one priority for the City of Romulus. This was evident early on in his term, as he once again brought a supermarket back to the Downtown district.

I agree with the Mayor and fully support him in his endeavors. I have known him since I first came to Romulus in 1983, when he was a city councilman and I applied before the city council for

continued on page 4

The Romulus News

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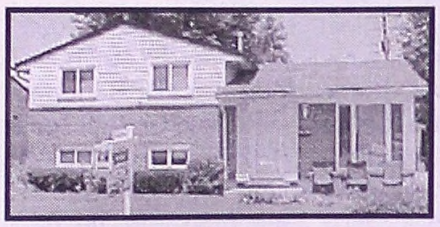

37500 Castle • Romulus • $169,000
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25048 Pamela • Taylor • $174,000
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37700 Castle • Romulus • $149,900
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Belleville • $169,000
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Children's Librarian Welcomed

A new youth services librarian has been chosen at the Romulus Public Library, reports library director Shelley DeLano.

Gurpreet "Preet" Samra, who came to Romulus five weeks ago, was working at the Ecorse Public Library when she got the job offer here.

"I really want to help children of all ages become more literate," she said.

Born in Punjab, India, Samra came to the United States in 1981. She received her undergraduate degree from the University of Sacramento and has a Master's Degree in Library Science from Wayne State University. She has resided in Michigan since 1995.

Among Samra's duties will be conducting the library's free story time program for preschoolers. The fall session, which began this week and runs through mid November, offers two meeting times: Tuesdays at 7 p.m. and Thursdays at 10:30 a.m.

Samra will also oversee the children's holiday craft classes for students in grades K–6. Upcoming dates include Halloween (Saturday, October 24), Thanksgiving (Saturday, November 22), and Christmas (Saturday, December 6). All classes begin at 10:30 a.m.

Also in the works are a baby-sitting workshop for teens (see page 1 for details) and a teen reading group.

DeLano – who came to the Romulus library in 1991, and served as youth services librarian from 1994 until she assumed the directorship in June of 2003 – is pleased to have the library at full staff once again.

"Preet" Samra (left) and Shelley DeLano

"We are very glad to have Gurpreet working with us," said DeLano. "She is very dedicated to helping young people."

DeLano urges those who haven't been to the library in a while to stop in and see what's new – including a reading niche for adults that was made possible through money raised by the Friends of the Romulus Library. The group holds two used-book sales each year: one in April and another during the annual Romulus Pumpkin Festival. Donations of books for the sale are accepted at the library year round.

For more information about the Romulus Public Library and its services, call 734-942-7589 during normal business hours: Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Saturday from 12 to 5 p.m. ❑

Meeting Focuses on Communication

The parent support group at Wick Elementary School recently met for a pizza/salad dinner and discussion about ways to communicate more effectively with teachers. Among those who took part in the dinner/ discussion program were: (from left) front – Catherine Adams, Jacinda Jones, Danielle Funderburg, Addie Card, Geneva Matthews, and Katrina Gray; middle – Sandy MacDonald (Wick social worker), Lawanda Williams, Clarise Hurston, Noreen Tucker, Patricia Johnson, Mae Lytle, Cherise Powers, and Teresa Erquhart; back – Mary Binkiewicz, Kelly Sandefur, Robin Robinson, Steve Cobb, Tonya Thomas, and James Erquhart.

Letters to the Editor

continued from page 2

my first business license. He has always had the best interests of the City of Romulus at heart.

Recently, as I watched a number of public hearings and meetings, I heard a lot about the controversy surrounding the proposed racetrack and the possibility of casino gambling. While I do occasionally enjoy going to a casino, I have not been to a racetrack in 10 years; however, I probably would go if one were in the area. I believe that either of these two entertainment ventures (or both) would not only give travelers, visitors, and residents something to do in our local area, but it would generate much-needed revenue for Romulus to further develop the community centers, parks, animal shelters, and schools that this city so desperately needs and the residents are asking for.

In the off season, the facilities at the racetrack could be used for conventions, concerts, and local events – something we don't enjoy now. Also, this development would bring in additional, much-needed jobs as well as some of the shopping areas and restaurants we constantly wish for and other cities get. Wouldn't it be great to have a movie theater here?

We have heard many, many proposals for developments in the Vining Road Interchange area over the years, but nothing has ever materialized. We must capitalize on the opportunities that we have at hand which will lead to further area improvements. My mother often said to me, as I grew up, "If you don't do nothing, you don't get nothing."

Any development – regardless if it's housing, shopping, industrial, or entertainment – will bring additional traffic congestion to our city. However, what it will also bring is tax dollars for the city services and facilities to make this city a premier location in which to live, work, and raise our children.

My understanding is that the tax revenues generated by racetrack betting alone will produce an estimated $1 million a year for the City ... and this will buy a lot of facilities and services for us, year after year, with no increase in taxes to residents. Additionally, the property and personal tax revenue from the racetrack/casino ventures would certainly be a welcome source of revenue to prevent further residential property tax increases and improve our already fine city services.

It's time for change and growth. ... I am proud of my city, and I welcome these new ventures as well as those that are sure to follow.

Sincerely,
Oscar H. Rhoton, Jr.
Owner/Broker
Metro Realty Group, Inc.

Educated=Informed

Dear Editor:

As an elected official of the City of Romulus, it is my belief that an educated public is an informed public.

There are some key questions and concerns regarding the recent action taken by the majority of council to rescind Resolution 03-382.

Originally – on September 8, 2003 – I made a motion, supported by Councilman Charles Miller, to ask Congressman John Dingell to hold introduction of or action on HR2793 (a bill naming Romulus as an alternative location in a land claims settlement with the Sault Ste. Marie Chippewa Indian Tribe) *until the citizens of Romulus have an opportunity to vote on the casino issue.* City council members carried that action unanimously. Knowing the importance of citizens being involved in decision-making in their community, the council should not interfere with the public's due process, especially with a highly controversial issue like casino gambling.

On September 22, 2003, Councilman Bill Wadsworth made a motion, supported by Councilman Mike Prybyla, to rescind Resolution 03-382. Voting "yes" on this new resolution (Resolution 03-392) were Councilmen Wadsworth, Prybyla, Bill Crova, and Randy Gear; voting "no" were Councilmen Miller, LeRoy Burcroff, and myself.

To date, no one knows for sure what effects Resolution 03-392 will have on the ballot question regarding casinos if HR2793 moves forward. Will the people's vote become moot? How fast will HR2793 move through the Committee on Resources? Who is pushing the bill up front and/or behind the scenes? Will the bill pass the House and Senate before a special election can be held on December 2, 2003?

Because of these uncertainties, I still question the rescinding of Resolution 03-382. Again, I will remain firm: No action should be taken on HR2793 *until the citizens of Romulus have an opportunity to vote on December 2, 2003, regarding the casino issue.*

In "Council Rescinds Resolution on HR2793" – an article that appeared in *The Romulus News* on October 3, 2003 – Councilman Wadsworth is quoted as saying that two resolutions were passed on September 8, 2003. Fact: NO resolutions were passed – one was tabled, the other later rescinded.

With support from City Councilman Miller, I made a motion (Resolution 03-379) to schedule a special election for

continued on page 8

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Promoted Employees, New Hire Work for City's Residents

Romulus Mayor Alan R. Lambert is happy to report that three City employees filling new positions are working hard for the benefit of the community.

"We already have a great group of employees serving our residents," said Lambert. "These new positions have been filled by very capable people as well."

Lambert hopes that Romulus residents will join him in welcoming Ursula Wester, program assistant at Romulus Senior Center, and in congratulating Richard Suiter, assistant director of the Department of Public Works, and Oliver Warren, director of the Cable Television Department, on their recent promotions.

Richard Suiter

Richard Suiter, the DPW's new assistant director, has been with the City of Romulus since 1972, when he was first hired as a laborer for the DPW. During his years of working his way up the ladder, Suiter also spent some time with the Water Department, and achieved his S1 Water Works System Operator's designation, which is the highest-level of certification given.

Suiter is a 1967 graduate of Romulus High School and a U.S. Army veteran. He resides in Romulus with his wife, Kathy, and their children, Jamie and Dennis – both honor students at RHS. In his spare time, Suiter enjoys fishing, traveling, and attending his children's sporting events.

"I am proud to be working with our director, Carl Brooks, and the rest of the staff," Suiter said. "We have a hard-working team of employees in the Department of Public Works."

Oliver Warren

Oliver Warren's recent appointment as director of the Cable TV Department upgraded him to full-time status with the City. The Ford Motor Co. retiree has been with the Cable Department since 1988, when he served as its part-time director. In his new capacity, Warren will supervise the City's cable programming for channels 12 and 18.

"Romulus cable TV has come a long way, and our residents are faithful viewers of our local cable programs," he said. "When I first started working here, we had only a modulator, character generator, and tape deck – no cameras whatsoever."

Since the early 1970s, Warren has been involved in a series of volunteer efforts. Organizations with which he has worked include the American Progressive Association and the Citizens District Council.

Ursula Wester

Ursula Wester, the new program assistant at the Romulus Senior Center, is happy with her new position.

"It's a great job, working with really nice people," she said.

Wester, a resident of Romulus, has been an active member of the Romulus Athletic Club for many years, serving as a dedicated cheerleading coach and fund-raiser for the Romulus Flyers.

Best wishes to all. ❑

Ursula Wester

Richard Suiter

Oliver Warren

Chamber Announces Raffle Winners

Motorcycle lovers who attended the Romulus Pumpkin Festival and/or the Huron Township Apple Fest were probably drooling when they saw this 2003 Harley-Davidson Ultra Classic with custom trailer, offered as the first prize in a raffle conducted by the Huron Township Rotary Club. Unfortunately, the winner – announced on October 5 – wasn't a local; Al Johnson of Lincoln Park was the lucky guy. Winners of the $2,000 second prize and $1,000 third prize were Beth Sinacola of New Hudson and Ray Denton of Wayne, respectively. The raffle fund-raiser allows the Rotary to generously support worthy causes such as scholarship awards, library book donations, Goodfellow baskets/gifts, Scouting, and youth athletics.

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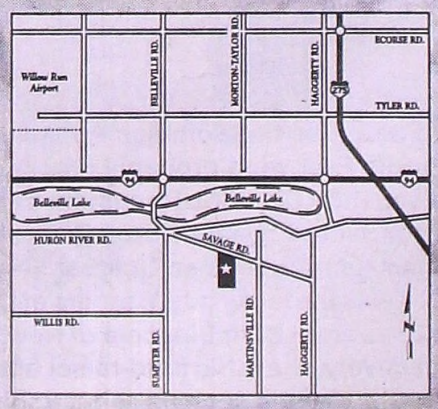

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Around the District

(From left) Merriman students Savannah Henry, Aarinicia Hightower, Dominic Pena, Gwen Block, and David Strickland joined teacher Jessica Graham to demonstrate "Hands Across the Halls," signifying togetherness on the school's educational mission. Parents will show their unity by bringing in stick figures and taping them, hands joined, along the hall.

Jim Cruise (back) – aka "The Spoon Man" because of his ability to play a variety of music styles using common household spoons – invited (from left) student teacher Brad Sandberg and students Jeffrey McKinney and Lyric Harris to join his Hillbilly Band during a recent assembly at Halecreek. Cruise's message: laugh, share, and respect yourself and others!

Among the many parents who attended Romulus Middle School's recent Open House were (from left) Brett Kinney, Bridget Anderson, Star Dailey-Bennett, Louis Emanuel, and Carla Kinney.

Parents attending the Open House program at the Middle School were greeted by counselors Vern Logan and Christine Julvezan as well as student assistant Rebecca Lewkowicz.

Taking part in a "School Success Strategies" workshop hosted by Romulus Elementary were (from left) Gloria Haywood, Selassica O'Flynn (school social worker), Vicki Thornton (and her children, Marcus, Elliott, and Octavia), Debbie Dunn, and Gretchen Notaro (learning specialist).

Romulus High School principal Dan Hurst proudly shows off the beautiful new fountain/creek in the High School's courtyard. The courtyard also boasts a charming gazebo and several other attractive landscaping features.

Letters to the Editor

continued from page 4

the purpose of placing the issues of a proposed casino and horse racetrack before the registered voters of this city. However, before a vote could be taken, Councilman Crova, supported by Councilman Prybyla, made a motion to table Resolution 03-379. All members except Councilman Miller and myself voted in favor of the motion to table.

Some may be asking, "What does it mean to table a motion?" Well, a motion to table takes precedence over all other subsidiary questions. It is not debatable, and cannot be amended. *It removes the subject from consideration until Council votes to remove it from the table.*

In short, the motion to schedule a special election was tabled.

Section 7.10 of the Romulus City Charter permits the council to call for a referendum without the need for citizen petitions. Section 7.8 addresses the procedure that council must use when petitions *are* successfully circulated. The public question or referendum on a casino and racetrack was initiated NOT by city council, but by petitions circulated and signed by the required number of registered electors of the city (not less than 6% of the voters registered at the last preceding election at which a mayor of the city was elected). In total, 855 signatures (441 regarding the casino issue; 414 on the racetrack) were presented to City Clerk Linda Choate. Her office needed to verify only 301 of the signatures on each issue to certify the petitions.

At the next regular city council meeting – held on October 6, 2003 – the council (according to the process outlined in Section 7.8 of the City Charter) proceeded to consider the petition questions. The result was Councilman Wadsworth's motion, supported by Councilman Crova and approved unanimously by the council, for Resolution 03-419, which calls for a special election to be held on December 2 to decide two issues:

"Shall the City of Romulus allow casino gaming within the corporate limits of the City of Romulus, in accordance with the Michigan Gaming Control and Revenue Act 1997, Public Act 69 and/or the Federal Indian Gaming Regulatory Act?" (YES or NO)

"Shall the City of Romulus allow horse racing, the attendant pari-mutuel wagering, and other gaming within the corporate limits of the City of Romulus, in accordance with the Horse Racing Law of 1995, 1995 Public Act 279?" (YES or NO)

I would also like to clarify another issue cited by Councilman Wadsworth in the article referenced earlier. Although the legislative body of this city did not act upon a State of Michigan bill that could possibly bring slot machines into racetracks, I understand that someone within the administration felt confident enough to tell our state legislators that our city's official position was in opposition to "racinos." Yet, resolution 03-383 reaffirmed our city's policy that official positions on pending, present, or proposed legislation are to be established by a resolution of the council. Resolutions adopted by the majority of the council assist our legislators by affirming our city's positions on important issues. *The majority speaks for the city.*

Again, it is my belief that an educated public is an informed public. Please exercise your right and vote on December 2, 2003.

Sincerely,
Debbie Romak
Romulus City Council

Educated or Informed?

To the residents of Romulus:

I witnessed the October 6 meeting of the Romulus City Council on the government channel.

It appears that Councilwoman Debbie Romak wants to "educate" the residents of Romulus on issues pertaining to the future development of our city.

To tell the truth, I feel that her statement was a slap in the face of my intelligence, as well as the intelligence of the other residents in our community. Many of us are well educated, and I feel like we are being played like fools.

Following Councilwoman Romak's statement, Council Chairman Randy Gear brought up the point that the correct term should be "informed" rather than "educated." The response from Councilwoman Romak was to attack the issue on the terms of use. Chairman Gear was informed that he can use "informed"; she will use "educate."

In my opinion, this was a direct slap against the chairperson and his leadership ability. When an individual does not show respect to another individual, that causes friction.

From my perspective, Councilwoman Romak is serving her own political agenda. If this is the case, is she serving Romulus residents?

I have been keeping track of progress related to the casino and racetrack issues. The idea of giving voters the power to decide is a good one; however, "educating" us is not a good political move for someone who has her eye set on the mayor's office in the up-and-coming elections.

Let's look at the pros and cons of a racetrack and casino in Romulus.

One member of the audience mentioned that we need high-paying jobs in our area. The high-paying jobs are in the auto industry. With auto plants closing, it is highly unlikely that we would attract more of that industry anytime soon. Aerospace pays well, too, but getting those companies to move from the warmer climates to Romulus would take a *great* recruiting effort.

There was a discussion about keeping the current crop fields in place and not building at all. One individual had a good point: The land is too expensive to remain as a field. Meanwhile, another person discussing property values mentioned that the fields are feeding the world. Well, given the size of these particular fields, we would be lucky if we could feed Romulus residents for three or four days on the crops raised there, so it's obvious to me that the world would starve if it relied on those fields for food.

One person pleaded with passion to bring in an outlet store like the one in Birch Run or the Horizon Mall in Monroe. Look at the physical condition that that mall is currently in. How many chain stores can support new malls? The developer is at risk of not renting the store spaces, so will this create new jobs? I will agree that Romulus needs more shopping; however, the revenue generated on taxation and the low wages paid will not boost our city revenue that much.

Most of the open land we have is used by warehouses or new homes. Again, our tax revenue is an issue. Will our city gain by this type of development?

Many options are open for the development of new jobs. A warehouse complex, if built, may hire no more than 200 to 300 people, with many of the positions being low-paying. New homes are a great idea, but south of the Airport, homes have been bought out because of noise pollution.

Years ago, we had a developer that was going to build a shopping mall on the fields in question. The problem was accessibility: Coming from Wickham or Wick would overtax our roads. So, an exit was planned, with most of the funding for the bridge to come from federal grants. The problem developed when it came time to build the on- and off-ramps, which were not included in the grant package. Funding was secured to build the ramps about two years later, but, by that time, the developers decided to invest their money elsewhere.

The casino and racetrack will attract people, and the trickle-down effect will be felt in our once-booming travel industry. Many rooms at the local hotels are now vacant as a result of 9/11, and our local hotels have laid off staff in an effort to reduce costs. With fewer people staying at the local hotels, the restaurants are feeling the pinch, as well. One gentleman made the comment that, with the casino offering less-expensive food, restaurants like Romulus House would not survive. But, local residents who have an established eating pattern will still continue to patronize Romulus House. (I haven't seen a large influx of travelers seeking out the Romulus House for their dining pleasure.) Restaurants likely to be affected are Bob Evans and Big Boy.

The new Northwest Terminal was designed as the premier shopping mecca for travelers as well as residents. Since 9/11, we need a valid airline ticket to shop at our new location.

One thing for certain is that a casino and racetrack will generate income for the city, in revenue as well as new jobs. Many adults forget the path that we took to acquire a well-paying job. Many started off with low-paying jobs and worked their way up using either higher education or experience to gain more income.

Some residents had expressed their concern on the crime rate going higher. That may be the case; here again, few realize the number of autos stolen from area hotels, alone. It is a known fact that areas that are well-lighted, with security and surveillance cameras, deter crime.

What percentage of jobs will go to local residents will depend upon the qualifications of the applicants and the needs of the companies. I remember when the former mayor of Flat Rock wanted only Flat Rock residents to be hired at Mazda (now Auto Alliance). How many residents do you think qualified for positions? Not many. Our school system is one of the best in the state. We have excellent technical and vocational training available to our students. Many will have the qualifications in electronics, culinary arts, and computer technology to qualify for the new jobs.

The money we got from the Airport was never much to begin with; now the Airport Authority is reducing the revenue by as much as $600,000 a year. This will throw our city and our school systems into what is known as a tailspin.

When the State of Michigan lowered property taxes, municipalities were forced to increase their property taxes through the guise of higher property values, keeping us at or close to our previous level. Cities had to do this in order to maintain services.

Now, I ask you: What better serves the residents of Romulus? A shopping mall, offering low-paying jobs and a lower tax base? A field of crops feeding the world? Or a casino and racetrack, paying higher taxes, with low-to-moderate-paying jobs and increased tourism?

A casino and racetrack will generate income for the city. That money can be spent to beef up essential services such as a new fire station on the north side of I-94, additionall law-enforcement officers, recreation facilities, and even the much-sought new animal shelter.

Now, do you want to be "educated" or "informed"? You can have all the education in the world and still be stupid without being informed.

Todd Hauter
AO1 USN (Retired)
an informed Romulus resident of 25 years ❑

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New Athletic Field Puts Romulus at Top of Mega League

The recent installation of "infilled synthetic turf" on the Romulus Middle School football field places the Romulus Community Schools among the leaders of the 27-team Mega Athletic Conference, reports district spokesperson Dick Kruse.

"Romulus joins Mega members Wyandotte, Carlson, and Woodhaven with this state-of-the-art athletic field," he stated.

The new field will permit Romulus to host football, soccer, and lacrosse games, and will provide a venue for physical-education classes for the 1,000 students who attend the Middle School and neighboring Wick Elementary. It will also present the district with opportunities to host regional and state playoff games in all three sports, as well as marching band competitions.

Romulus teams using the field will include the RHS Eagles varsity and junior varsity football teams, the RMS Bulldogs football team, three Romulus Flyers football teams (varsity, JV, and freshmen), the RHS soccer teams (boys and girls), and the RHS lacrosse team.

According to Kruse, school officials were able to finance this project by carefully managing funds from the historic 1999 bond issue approved by voters. A series of events that all proved favorable for the district included:

- an early placement of the bond proceeds that resulted in a gain of interest earned over the duration of the program;
- a favorable interest rate at the inception of the bond program; and
- careful management of the design and construction process, often resulting in construction bids coming in lower than originally anticipated.

Kruse gave a detailed explanation of the turf installation process.

"The initial renovation stage involved excavating the entire playing surface to a depth of 28 inches, then leveling it," he said. "Some of the surface dirt was used to level the neighboring Middle School baseball diamond; the rest was removed from the site."

After a second stage, which involved the installation of drainpipes that both surround and crisscross the field, a layer of plastic mesh was put down.

"The third stage began with a plastic mesh covering the entire field," said Kruse. "The mesh was covered by a stone mixture several inches thick. This process continued with additional layers of plastic mesh and different stone grades until the entire field was replaced."

Next, SRI – the contractor for the job – brought in turf specialists who installed the plastic-grass field base. These specialists also cut out and patched in yard-markers, hash marks, and the large "R" in the center of the field. Tons of small rubber beads and sand were then spread and brushed into the field base.

"The final surface has approximately 1.5 inches of rubber beads and sand on the base, and is guaranteed for 10 years," Kruse stated. "The field will save the district future costs related to maintenance of the irrigation system, water bills, and fertilizer, in addition to labor costs associated with grass-cutting and field-marking," he added.

Kruse noted that colleges and universities that have installed similar systems include Michigan, Nebraska, and Washington. Detroit-area high schools with synthetic turf include Plymouth, Berkley, Walled Lake, and Birmingham.

"Romulus citizens can be very proud of our new synthetic turf field, and we can look forward to the future athletic and educational opportunities it will provide to the entire community," he said.

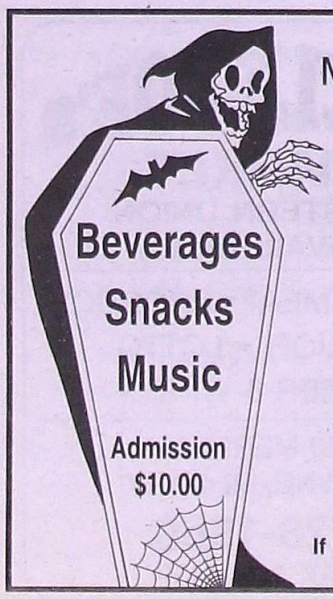
Kruse urged residents who have not yet seen the field to attend an upcoming sporting event and check it out. Among his suggestions:

- a 4 p.m. RHS soccer game against Ypsilanti on Friday, October 17;
- a 7 p.m. RHS varsity football game the same day; or
- a 6 p.m. RMS football game on Friday, October 24. ❑

(#1) Construction crews removed 28 inches of dirt to prepare the field for base materials.

(#2) Following removal of the dirt (some of which was used to improve the neighboring baseball diamond), work crews leveled the surface.

(#3) The next step called for the installation of numerous large pipes for drainage.



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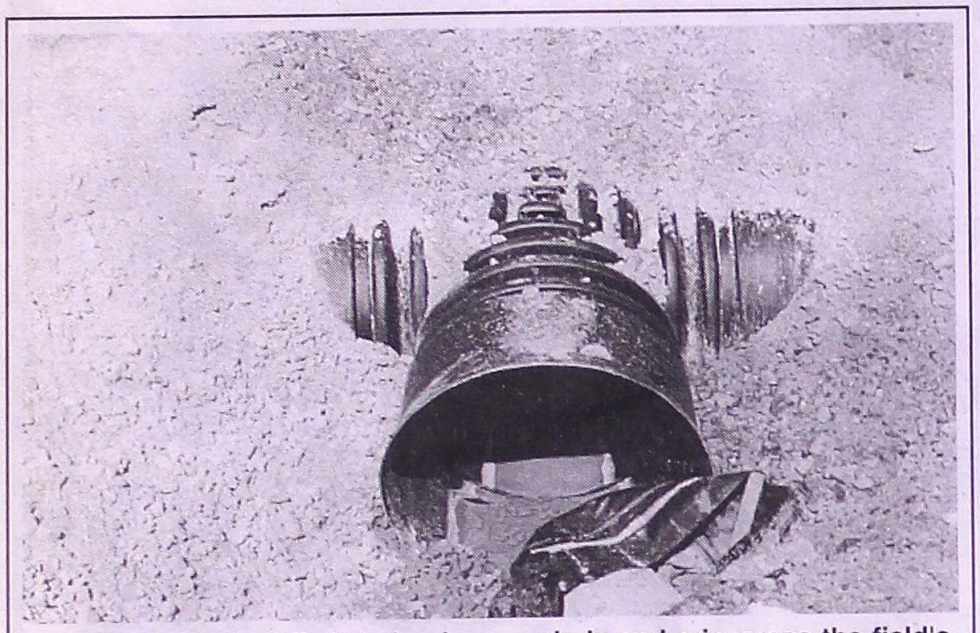
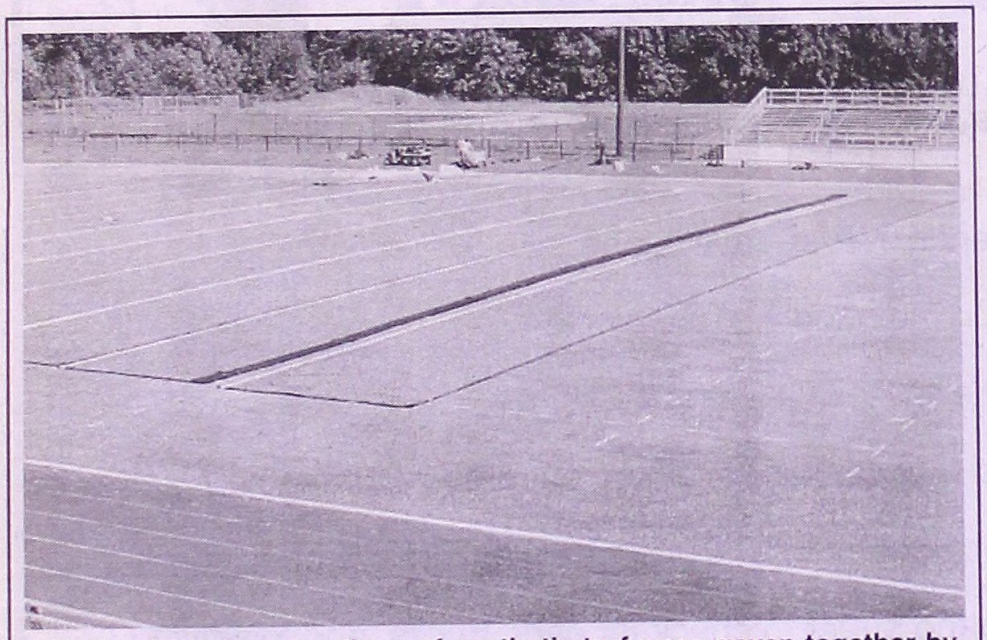
New Athletic Field



(#4) The newly installed drain pipes encircle and crisscross the field's foundation.

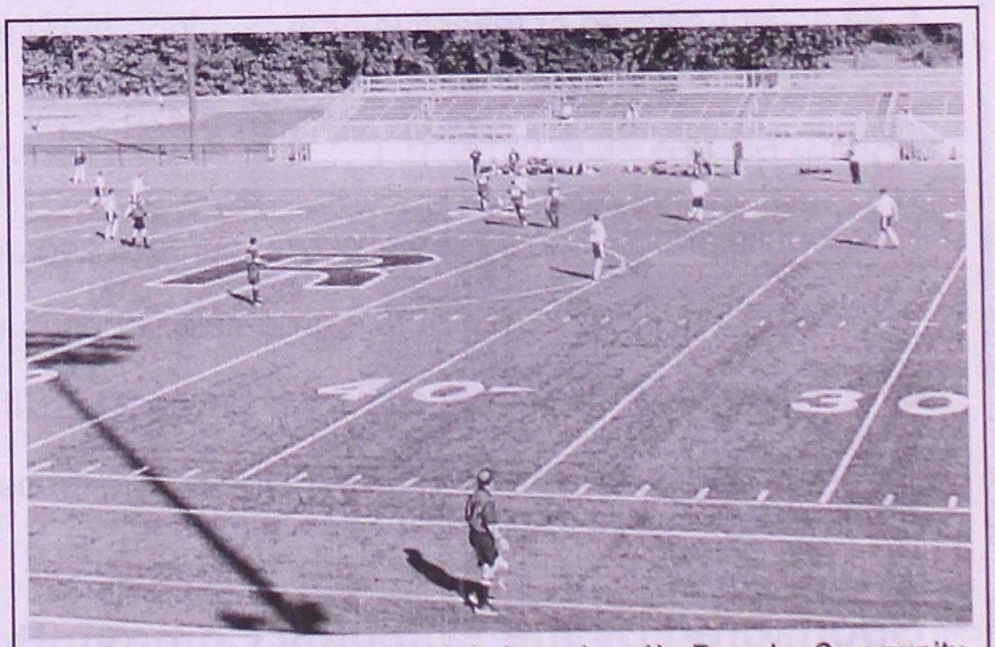
(#5) Layers of plastic mesh and stones of different grades were added to return the field to its original level.



(#6) The large base sections of synthetic turf were woven together by specialists.

(#7) Tons of small rubber balls and sand were spread onto the surface of the field.

(#8) A special brush was used to work the rubber balls and sand into the base until a 1.5" covering was attained.



(#9) The completed field is already being enjoyed by Romulus Community Schools students, including Romulus High School's soccer team.

HALLOWEEN
Safety Tips

FOR KIDS

- Trick-or-Treat before dark.
- Be cautious of animals and strangers.
- Carry a flashlight so you can see and be seen easily.
- Visit homes that you know and that have the porch light on.
- A face mask may obstruct your vision; use makeup instead.
- Accept your treats at the door. Never go into a stranger's house.
- Wear a costume that makes it easy for you to walk, see, and be seen.
- Plan your Trick-or-Treat route ahead of time. Pick streets that are well lit.
- Trick-or-Treat with a parent, older brother, sister, or friends. Never travel alone.
- Don't hide or cross the street between parked cars or in the middle of the block.
- Walk, slither, and sneak on sidewalks; if there is no sidewalk, walk facing traffic.
- Keep away from open fires and candles. (Keep in mind that costumes can be extremely flammable.)
- Have a grown-up inspect your treats before eating. Don't eat candy if the package is already open.
- Look LEFT, RIGHT, then LEFT AGAIN before crossing the street to check for cars, trucks, and low-flying brooms. Cross *only* at corners.
- Wear light-colored or reflective-type clothing so you are more visible. (And remember to put reflective tape on bikes, skateboards, and brooms, too!)

FOR PARENTS

- Your child should know his/her phone number and address.
- Dress children in shoes that fit. Large-size shoes make it easier to trip and fall.
- Limit the use of "weapons" as part of the costume. If you allow a weapon, be sure it is soft and flexible.
- When you inspect the treats, be sure they have not been tampered with and are safely sealed. Be careful with fruit, as punctures or holes are easily missed.

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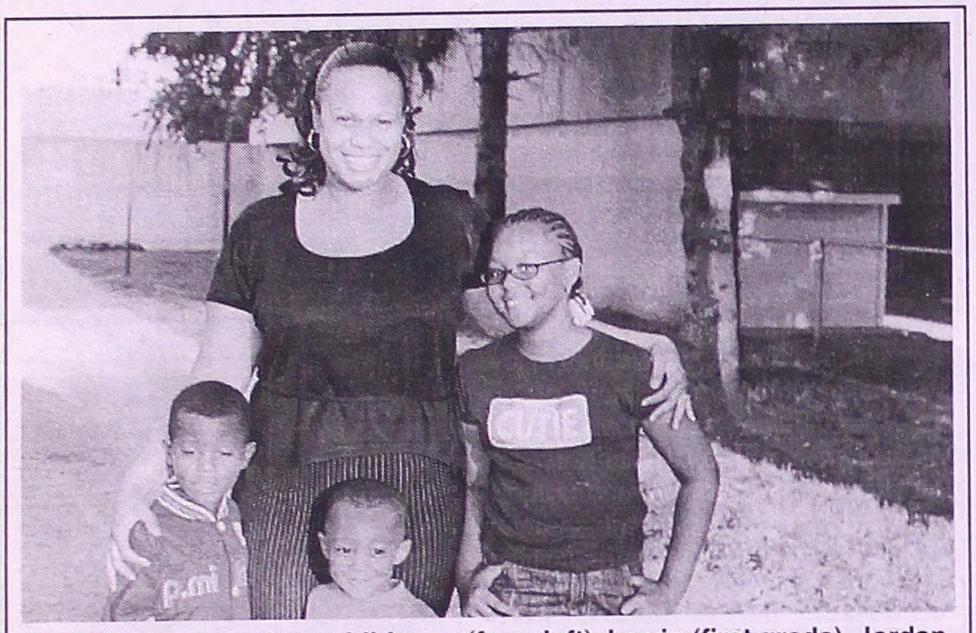
"Open House"



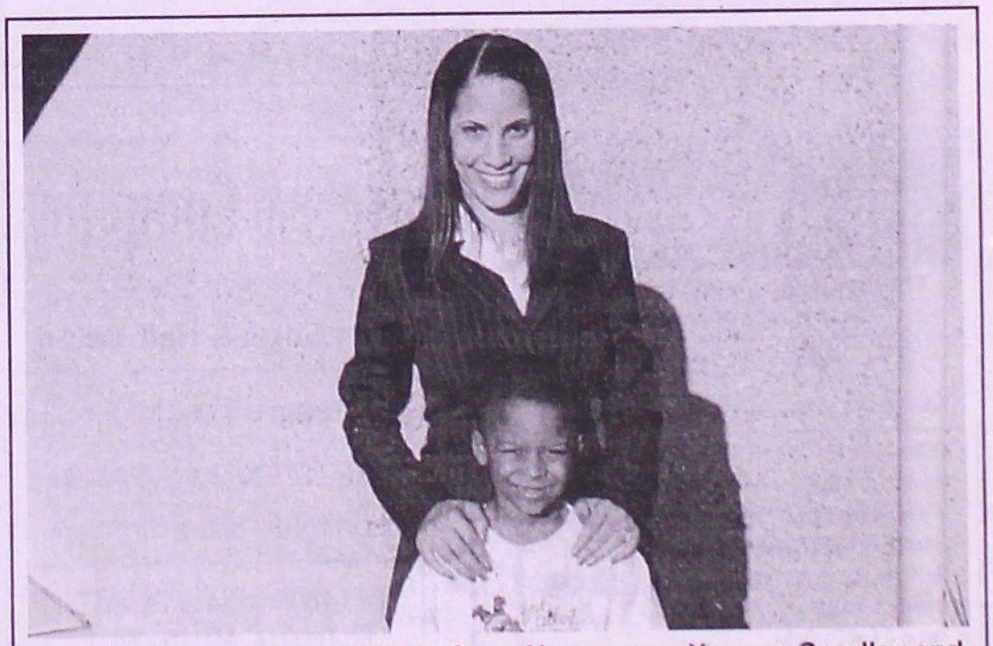
Danielle Street and her children – (from left) Jayvin (first grade), Jordan (preschool), and Daijah (sixth grade) – attended Barth's Open House.

Taking part in the Open House at Cory were Teresa Dooley and her daughter, Destinee Hayes, who attends kindergarten there.

Lori Rogers and daughter Joanna, a fifth-grader at Halecreek, had a good time at their school's Open House.

Enjoying the Open House at Merriman were Dawn Ray and her daughter Nikol, a first-grader.

Kim Rice and her twins, sixth-graders Nathan and Cassie, enjoyed attending the Open House at Romulus Elementary.



Among those attending Wick's Open House were Yvonne Goodley and her son Christopher.

Weight-lifting Class Benefits Student with Health Problems

RHS physical-education teacher Norbert Glover (left) works with one of his star pupils, Bradley Bills, in his weight-lifting class.

Norbert Glover, a physical-education teacher at Romulus High School, is really upbeat these days. He has taken a special interest in Bradley Bills, a student with a rare disease called ataxia-telangiectasia (A-T) – and that interest is paying off handsomely.

A-T results in a gradual deterioration of strength and physical mobility for those who are afflicted with the disease. Yet, Glover reports that his weight-lifting class has done just the opposite for Bills, who is actually developing upper-body strength.

"You can readily see the difference in Brad," said his mother, Denise. "He really enjoys the class and the support that he receives from his teacher and classmates."

Glover, who led the Romulus High School track team to a Division 2 championship in 2000, said, "I experience some very strong emotions working with Bradley. It is just amazing to see the progress he has made with regard to both his strength and his physique."

Glover also noted that Bills's classmates are equally impressed by how much he has filled out and by his positive attitude.

Mom Denise said that her son's doctor thought the class might be good for Bradley – but, because A-T is such a rare disease, nobody seems to know exactly how to deal with it. According to her, Johns Hopkins (located in Baltimore, Maryland) is the only center in the United States that has expertise in A-T.

Glover said that he looks forward to continuing his work with Bills and hopes that he can continue to help him.

"This is really inspiring because this kind of improvement is not supposed to happen," he said.

Bills's doctor said that he will report this success to Johns Hopkins in the hope that it might help other patients across the country and around the world.

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Council Approves Metro World PDA

continued from page 1

Regarding details spelled out by the PDA, Metro World vice-president Douglas J. Ryan noted, "The Metro World Centre PDA calls for approximately 100 acres of *mixed use* (single-family residential, multiple-family residential, and neighborhood commercial); 200 acres of *office research technology*; 30 acres of *office*; and 100 acres of *regional center* (hotels, convention center, restaurants, etc.) development.

"This PDA has paved the way for potential purchasers of land to have a much expedited approval process going forward, giving Romulus a competitive advantage over neighboring communities," he added.

"We have worked many months in a cooperative effort with the property owner and his staff," said Romulus city planner Cynthia Lyon, AICP. "By putting this PDA in place, we have set the standard for future development within the city. We look forward to working with the developers to see the vision of this PDA carried out. We believe this will be a model for other development in Romulus as well as the region."

Metro World Centre encompasses approximately 556 acres located close to Detroit Metropolitan Airport and bound by Ecorse Road on the north, Wayne Road on the west, Wick Road/I-94 on the south, and Vining Road on the east.

Cushman & Wakefield of Michigan, Inc. – located in Southfield – is marketing Metro World Centre.

For more information about the project, contact Jeffrey Snell or Peter Rogers at 248-353-2100. ❑

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Donors of $500 or more will be recognized on a memorial plaque.
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Community Calendar

- **Preschool Story Time** – Preschool Story Time – a program for children ages 3 to 5 who are not yet in kindergarten, but are ready for independent listening – will be held at the Romulus Public Library (11121 South Wayne Road, next to City Hall). Parents may choose to enroll their child in one of two sessions: Tuesdays at 7 p.m. (now through November 18) or Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. (now through November 20). Although the program is free, registration is required. For more information, call 734-942-7589.
- **Keyes To Speak at Chamber Luncheon** – Tim Keyes, director of economic development for the City of Romulus, will be the guest speaker at the Greater Romulus Chamber of Commerce's next business luncheon, to be held at noon on Tuesday, October 21, at the Double Tree Hotel (31500 Wick Road, Romulus). Tickets ($13 for members; $15 for nonmembers) must be purchased by 2 p.m. on Friday, October 17. For more information, call the Chamber office: 734-326-4290.
- **Teen Pregnancy Prevention Group Meets** – The next meeting of the Romulus Teen Pregnancy Prevention Partnership (RTP3) will be held from 7 to 8:30 p.m. on Wednesday, October 22, in Room 507 at Romulus High School (9650 South Wayne Road). All meetings are open to the public.
- **Celebrate Octoberfest** – Grandparents and their grandchildren are invited to join Wayne County Executive Robert A. Ficano for an Octoberfest celebration of arts, crafts, and story-telling from 3 to 6 p.m. on Thursday, October 23, at the Kay Beard Building (formerly Eloise; located at 30712 Michigan Avenue between Merriman and Middlebelt in Westland). All guests are asked to reserve their seat by Monday, October 20. For more information, or to RSVP, call Jackleen (313-224-0755) or Tynetta (313-224-0893).
- **Craft Show** – The Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce will host its fifth annual Holiday Arts & Crafts Show from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, October 25, in the Belleville High School cafeteria. Net proceeds from the event will help the Chamber pay off the mortgage on its new building.
- **Citywide Baby Shower** – In recognition of National Make-A-Difference Day, students from Romulus High School's parenting classes and Romulus Middle School's life management classes will host a citywide baby shower to benefit the Romulus Helping Hand, an agency that provides for needy newborns. The event – which will feature refreshments, door prizes, games, and educational materials – will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, October 25, in the cafeteria at the High School (9650 South Wayne Road, north of I-94). A donation of one new, unwrapped baby item is the "price" of admission. To make your reservation, please call Phyllis Wilkerson at the High School (734-532-1824) or Betty Santo at the Middle School (532-1824).
- **Romulus Democratic Club** – The Romulus Democratic Club meets at the UAW Hall/Local #174 (29841 Van Born Road) on the third Thursday of every month (next meeting: November 20) at 7 p.m. For more information, call (734-941-3513) or page (734-360-2232) Jack H. Trumble, Club President.
- **Christian Youth Group Meets** – The Youth Group at St. Aloysius Catholic Church meets at least twice monthly to socialize, have fun, and explore/build members' relationship with God and one another. For more information about the group, which is open to all area teens in grades eight and up, call Julie Wadsworth at 734-941-3340 any weekday between 7:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m., or e-mail her at juliewads@yahoo.com.
- **Romulus Church of God Announces Service Times** – Romulus Church of God (located at 8770 South Wayne Road) invites the public to attend their weekly services (Sundays at 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Wednesdays at 7 p.m.) as well as their children's programs: Kids for Christ (Sundays at 10:30 a.m.) and Kids Praise (Saturdays from 12 to 2 p.m.). For more information, please call 734-729-7243.
- **Women's Chorus Seeks New Members** – County Connection Chorus, a women's *a capella* group affiliated with Sweet Adelines, meets each Tuesday at 7 p.m. at UAW Local #898 (8975 Textile Road, Ypsilanti). Women interested in receiving free vocal lessons are encouraged at attend. The chorus specializes in four-part barbershop harmony with a repertoire that includes Broadway classics, pop, gospel, and barbershop standards. For further information, visit www.sweetadelines.org or call 734-480-8843.

To place information in our next issue's Community Calendar, mail it to "the little paper" at P.O. Box 74038, Romulus, MI 48174–0038; FAX it to us at 734-992-2052; or call 734-941-1907

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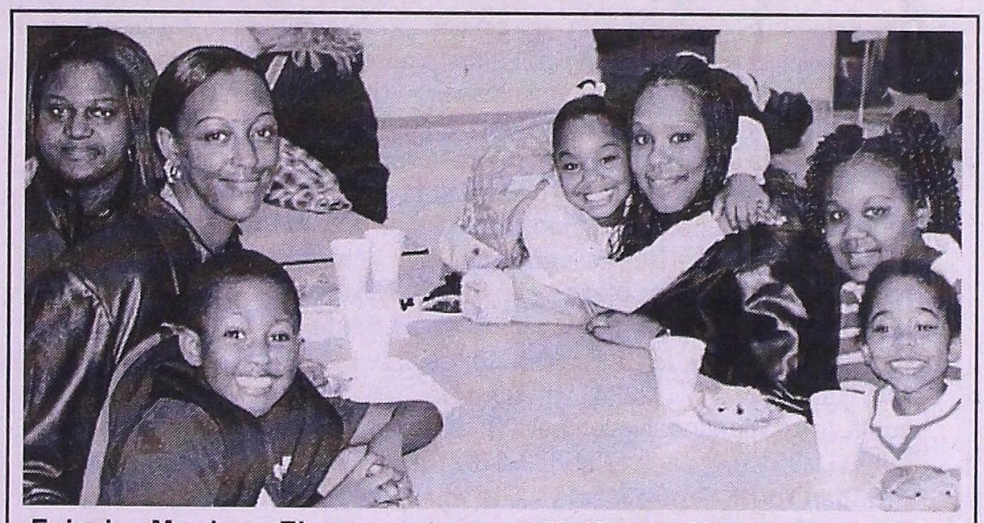
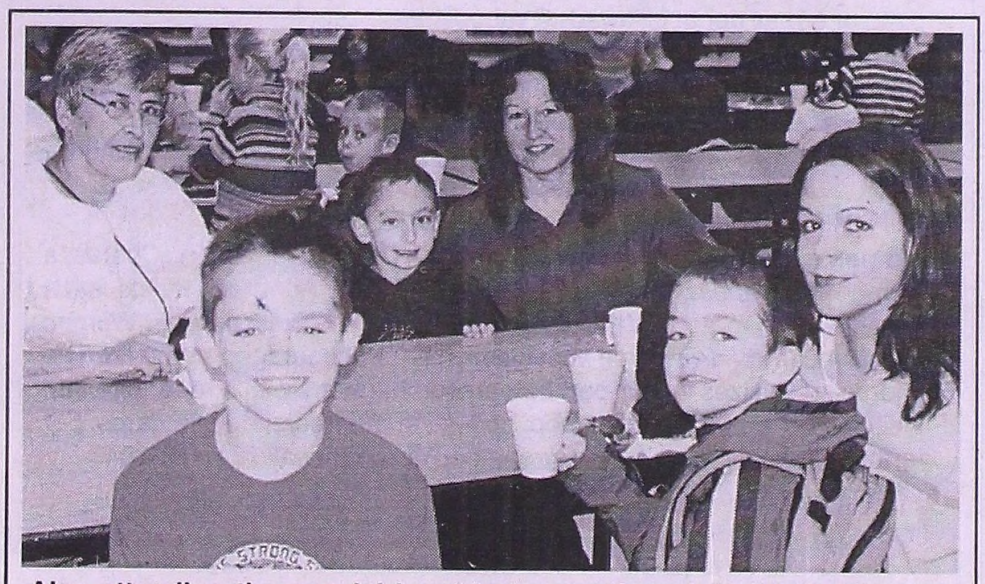
Merriman School Greets New Families

New residents in the Merriman Elementary attendance area were given a warm welcome by principal Shellie Moore, who invited them to the school for a special pizza-dinner/get-acquainted session. Attendees included: (from left) front – Pambla Woodward, DeMarco Woodward, Marquala Woodward, Tajenay Woodward, Delaney Dickerson, Renee Kish (social worker), Tiffany Ray, Tamara Ellis, Dushane Eldridge, and Alexis Cruz; back – Dennis Johnson Jr., Dennis Johnson Sr., Moore, Marcus Dickinson, Inger Dickinson, Michelle Alexander, Steven Smith, Laurie Johnson, John Deyampert, and Zepmana Cruz.

Muffins for Moms #1



Enjoying Merriman Elementary's recent Muffins for Moms program were (from left) Angela Moore, Sonya Jeffries and her son Daniel, Brandi Smith and mom Latema Miller, Chanel Smith, and Amille Black.



Also attending the special breakfast were (from left) Ethel Johnson, Nathan Wilkerson, Dennis Johnson and his mom Lori, and Drew Wilkerson and his mom Stephanie.

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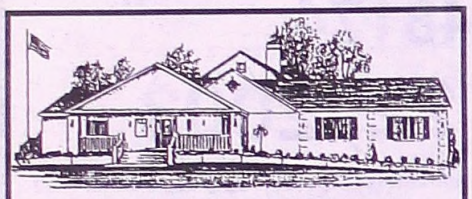

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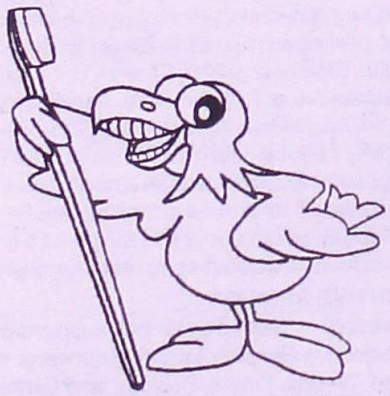

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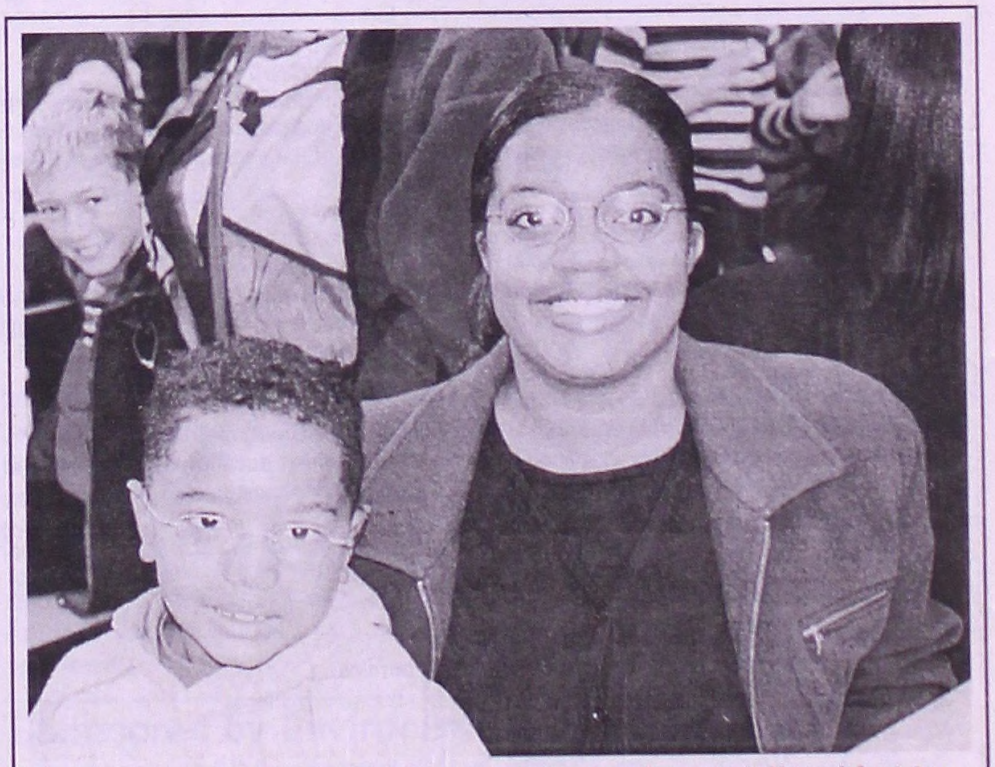
Muffins for Moms #2

(From left) Mom Becky Lewicki joined Brett and mom Donna Scarlett for Halecreek Elementary School's recent Muffins for Moms program.

Mom Christy Gaddis enjoyed the festive affair with her daughters, (front, from left) Brittany, Chelsea, and Kara. Also pictured is Katrina McKinney.



Keion Jackson and mom Erica enjoyed sharing the special breakfast, too.

RHS Students Hear Nationally Acclaimed Success Presentation

Romulus High School recently scheduled a presentation of the highly rated "Making High School Count" program for its freshmen and their parents. The free one-hour assembly took place at on Friday, October 3.

Making High School Count is designed to help students understand the importance of high school and what they need to accomplish to maximize their opportunities upon graduation. The program also addresses transitional issues such as time management and study skills.

"Entry into high school and college are key transition periods in a student's academic career," said Patrick S. O'Brien, founder of the Making It Count programs. "Our goal is to provide and reinforce the positive messages that counselors and teachers are giving to their students during these crucial times, and help students understand that anyone can be successful if they choose to be."

The Making High School Count program was successfully presented to more than one million students nationwide in 2002. On average, guidance counselors gave a rating of 9.5 (on a 10-point scale) to the ideas that were presented. This year, Making High School Count will be delivered to another one million freshmen. The growth of the program, combined with the success of the organization's additional presentations for juniors and seniors, will allow Making It Count to deliver its message to more than 2.5 million high-school students in 2003.

Key content from all of the Making It Count in-school presentation programs can be found on the company's Website at www.makingitcount.com. ❑

ROMULUS COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

36540 Grant Road, Romulus, Michigan 48174

REGULAR MEETING, SEPTEMBER 22, 2003

The Regular Meeting of the Romulus Board of Education held on Monday, September 22, 2003, was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by President Betty Lenossi.

Roll call showed all Board members present. All administrators were present.

Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Lenossi.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

9/03/9 Moved by White supported by Woods to approve the Agenda as amended, adding Item K1 – resolution congratulating the transportation department. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

9/03/10 Moved by Mientkiewicz supported by Buckley that the Board approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 8, 2003, as presented. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT:

Personnel Actions

EMPLOYMENT: Stacy Maironis, P.M. Kindergarten Teacher, Wick Elementary School, Effective September 19, 2003.

9/03/11 Moved by Woods supported by Buckley to accept employment of personnel as submitted by Mr. Edward Clark, Director of Human Resources. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

FYI: Treavor D. Rowton, Paraprofessional, Halecreek Elementary School, Seniority Date – July 15, 2003, Hire Date – January 12, 1999.

RESIGNATION: Jerilyn Burcroff, P.M. Kindergarten Aide, Wick Elementary School, Effective September 8, 2003, Last Day Worked – September 4, 2003.

Bills for Payment

9/03/12 Moved by Frayer supported by Roscoe that the Board approve the Bills for Payment as presented by Mr. William A. Routhier, Director of Business and Operations. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

Presentation – Positive Peer Intervention – RHS

Mr. Daniel Hurst, Ms. Rhonda McAlister, and a group of PPI students appeared before the Board of Education to present "Goals of Romulus High School's Peer Mediation Program, Peer Mediation Training, and the Mediation Process." They further provided statistics for the 2002–2003 school year reflecting the positive peer influence at Romulus High School.

Ratification of Romulus Federation of Paraprofessionals Contract

9/03/13 Moved by Frayer supported by White that the Board of Education accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve a new collective bargaining agreement with Romulus Federation of Paraprofessionals Local 3422 for the years 2003 through 2005. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

Nike Shoe Contract – Basketball Cooperative Agreements

The Board of Education discussed the contract and turned it over to the Superintendent to review the rules and guidelines of the Michigan Athletic Association.

Attendance Boundary Change – Avalon Subdivision to Cory

9/03/14 Moved by White supported by Mientkiewicz that the Board of Education assign the new Avalon subdivision to the Cory Elementary School attendance area. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

Approval of Public Service Credit Union (RHS)

9/03/15 Moved by White supported by Roscoe that the Board of Education enter into an arrangement with the Public Service Credit Union to provide educational services and a local credit union at Romulus High School. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

Winter Millage Levy

9/03/16 Moved by Mientkiewicz supported by Buckley that the Board of Education concur with the recommendation of the Finance Committee and adopt the following levy for the 2003 winter tax collection:

All Property	Homestead
2.25 mills Debt	4.60 mills Hold Harmless

Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

Non-Union Staff – Salary Adjustment

9/03/17 Moved by Roscoe supported by White that the Board of Education accept the recommendation of Mr. Edward Clark, Director of Human Resources, to approve the increase of 3% for non-union hourly staff as presented for the 2003–2004 school year. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

Surplus Buses – Declaration

9/03/18 Moved by Roscoe supported by Mientkiewicz that the Board of Education declare surplus two (2) transportation vehicles (Vehicle #51, Year – 1993, Make – TC-Bluebird [WC], 144,311 miles; and Vehicle #130, Year – 1993, Make – Chevy/Wayne, 147,591 miles) as outlined on the memo from Shirley Lamberson. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

Energy Audit

Mr. William Routhier, Director of Business and Operations, informed the Board that he had contacted the Michigan Department of Consumer Affairs for the possibility of conducting an energy audit of the 10 Romulus Community Schools buildings.

Resolution – Bus Drivers

9/03/19 Moved by Frayer supported by Roscoe that the Board of Education approve the resolution commending the Transportation Department and its employees for their outstanding achievement of winning first place in the large-vehicle division of the Romulus Pumpkin Festival's "Parade of Lights." Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

Communications and Expressions from the Public

There were no communications from the public.

Items of Interest from the Superintendent

Mr. Joel R. Carr, Superintendent, shared the following items of interest with members of the Board of Education: 1) Governor's Education Summit; 2) Cory Elementary School – Annual Report; 3) Meet & Eat Schedule – Wick; 4) MASB Annual Fall Leadership Conference; 5) Communication from Parent; 6) Romulus Elementary Monthly Newsletter; 7) Romulus Middle School Newsletter; 8) Communication from REA; 9) Parent Workshops – Romulus Elementary; 10) Communication to Parents – "No Child Left Behind"; and 11) Pumpkin Festival Booklet.

QUESTIONS AND/OR CONCERNS OF BOARD MEMBERS:

Mr. Michael Woods asked if the district was participating in NAACP dinner. Mr. Woods further discussed communication from Mr. Anderson concerning college credits being taken at the high school level. Mrs. Niema White suggested that an acknowledgment of Mr. Anderson's letter be sent to him in writing. Mrs. White also asked if it would be possible to open a latch key program at Romulus Elementary School. Mrs. Celeste Roscoe stated that more parent participation should be encouraged at parent workshops at Wick Elementary and Romulus Elementary. Mrs. Cheryle Buckley informed the Board members of a RTP3 meeting on Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. Mrs. April Frayer stated that Mr. Jason Kahler at the High School was checking to see if the Board of Education was participating in the Homecoming Parade. Mrs. Betty Lenossi informed the Board that Picture Retakes for Romulus Middle School were scheduled for 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. on October 21 in Room 100. Mrs. Roscoe extended a thank you to Belleville for the use of their athletic field while the Romulus field was under construction. Mrs. Buckley asked about athletic passes or discounts for students to attend athletic events. Mrs. White asked about computers for every 6th-grade student.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

9/03/20 Moved by Woods supported by Buckley that the Board of Education convene into Executive Session for the purpose of negotiations. Roll call vote: White, Mientkiewicz, Roscoe, Woods, Frayer, Buckley, and Lenossi. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

The Board convened into Executive Session at 8:05 p.m.

9/03/21 Moved by Buckley supported by Woods to reconvene into Regular Session. Roll call vote: White, Mientkiewicz, Roscoe, Woods, Frayer, Buckley, and Lenossi. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

The Board reconvened into Regular Session at 8:25 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

9/03/22 Moved by Woods supported by White to adjourn. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
April Frayer, Secretary
Romulus Board of Education

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT FORM

If you are a resident of Romulus, *The Romulus News* will be happy to print an announcement of your new addition (child or grandchild). If possible, please enclose a photograph of your new arrival. There is no charge. Just fill out the following information and mail to:

THE ROMULUS NEWS
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Paternal Grandparents _____
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City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Name and phone number of person to contact (in case of questions):
_____

Attach any additional information concerning the birth to this form.

ENGAGEMENT/WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENT FORM

If you, or your parents, are residents of Romulus, *The Romulus News* will be happy to print an announcement of your engagement or wedding. If possible, please enclose a photograph. There is no charge. Just fill out the following information and mail to:

THE ROMULUS NEWS
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Groom's Parents _____
City _____ State _____
Bridesmaids _____
Groomsmen _____
Date of Engagement _____
Date of Wedding _____
Place _____
City _____ State _____
Reception _____
City _____ State _____
Name and phone number of person to contact (in case of questions):
_____

Attach any additional information
concerning the wedding or engagement to this form.

Sassy Seniors

By Mary E. Clark

Special thanks to Linda Norman, senior citizens program coordinator for the City of Romulus Department of Parks and Recreation, for contributing information to this issue's "Sassy Seniors" column. (For more information about events at the Romulus Senior Center, located at 36515 Bibbins, please call 734-955-4120.)

Flu Shots

The Medical Team will be at the Romulus Senior Center from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Thursday, October 23, to administer flu shots. Persons 65 or older who have Medicare Part B insurance and reside in southern or western Wayne County pay nothing; Persons under 65 or those who have an HMO insurance are welcome, as well, but must pay a fee of $15, which will be collected on site.

To participate, please preregister with the Senior Center, and be sure to bring your ID and insurance card with you to your appointment. For more information, call the Center.

Mini Checkup

Susan Corser will be at the Senior Center at 9 a.m. on Thursday, November 6, to do free blood-sugar, blood-pressure, and oximeter readings for Romulus senior citizens.

Also on hand will be a foot doctor who accepts Medicare and most other insurances. (HMOs, HAP, and Medicaid are *not* accepted.)

Sign up at the Center.

Halloween Luncheon

"Halloween" will be the theme of the next Senior Center luncheon, to be held at 1 p.m. on Friday, October 24. Highlighting the event will be a costume contest, with prizes awarded to the winner in each of two categories: "favorite person" and "most colorful."

The devilishly delicious menu will feature ghoulish meat balls, ghostly mashed potatoes and gravy, zombie green beans, vampire desserts, and witches' brew beverage.

Tickets are just $4 per person, with a $1 refund for each person attired in costume. Make your reservation now!

Exercise Classes

Low-impact exercise classes (can be done from a chair) are being held at the Senior Center each Wednesday and Friday from 10 to 11 a.m. Stop in at or call the Center to place your name on the sign-up sheet.

Note: The Romulus Senior Center *strongly* recommends that seniors consult a physician before beginning any new exercise program.

Special Trips

Seniors interested in more information about these or other special trips that have been planned by the Romulus Senior Center should call Linda Norman.

- ***MGM Casino*** (October 26; $20);
- ***Halloween Mystery*** (October 29; $52);
- ***Soaring Eagle Casino*** (November 15; $26);
- ***Vienna Boys Choir*** (November 29; $79);
- ***Turkeyville Dinner Theater*** (December 2; $59); and
- ***Little River Casino*** (December 31–January 1; $169).

Note: Deposits – due at the time of sign-up – reserve your seat. For day trips, full payment is due at least two weeks before departure. For overnight trips, full payment is due a minimum of 30 days before departure.

Regular Programs

Besides the many special activities offered at the Romulus Senior Center, a number of regularly scheduled free or low-cost programs are also open to local senior citizens. They include:

- ceramics (Mondays, 1 p.m.),
- Club #1 (Tuesdays, 11 a.m.),
- bunco (Tuesdays, 1 p.m.),
- Senior Social Club (second Tuesday of each month, 2 p.m.)
- bingo (Wednesdays, 1 p.m.),
- "fun night" (Wednesdays, 5 p.m.),
- pinochle (Thursdays, 12:30 p.m.),
- quilting (Thursdays, 7 p.m.).

Haircuts

The Romulus Senior Center's next haircut date is set for Monday, October 20, beginning at 9 a.m. If you would like to take advantage of this affordable ($5) program, call the Center to make an appointment. Note: Haircut clients are asked to wash their hair before coming to their appointments, as the Center does not have the necessary facilities.

Annual Registration for Commodities

Commodities recipients who have not yet completed their annual registration should do so right away in order to avoid being removed from the list in November. For your convenience, the Center is accepting registrations every weekday during regular business hours except on distribution day itself (the third Thursday of the month).

Hot Lunches

Just a reminder that the Romulus Senior Center serves a hot lunch at 11:30 a.m. each weekday for only $1.75. Call at least 24 hours in advance to make your reservation. ❑

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